



For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

**U.S. Department of State and Ripken Baseball to Host Baseball Clinic
For Iraqi Coaches and Youth**

Aberdeen, MD – Ripken Baseball today announced that the organization is hosting a group of coaches and young baseball players from Iraq at Ripken Academy. The delegation is in the U.S. on a United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Sports Visitors Program May 3 – 13, 2010. The delegation includes ten boys and girls, ages 15-17, as well as five coaches.

Ripken Baseball will host a baseball clinic for the delegation at the Ripken Academy in Aberdeen, MD on May 5th. This will include baseball and softball skills training with Ripken Baseball instructors.

Ripken Baseball and the U.S. Department of State have partnered together on international projects in the past. As an American Public Diplomacy Envoy for the State Department's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, Cal Ripken Jr. brought the Ripken Baseball brand of instruction to youth in two different countries, China and Nicaragua. He was named to the position in August of 2007 by then Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The itinerary for this program will also include a clinic taught by Major League Baseball (MLB) All-Star Ken Griffey, Jr. at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. In addition, the delegation will tour the ballpark, observe batting practice, and attend the Baltimore Orioles game against the Seattle Mariners on May 11th.

In conjunction with this exchange, MLB donated 27 boxes of bats, helmets, balls, rule books and other equipment to Iraqi baseball and softball players. The equipment was presented at a ceremony in Baghdad on April 1st hosted by U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill.

About Ripken Baseball

Ripken Baseball is a sales and marketing company based in Baltimore, Md. that represents all business and philanthropic efforts of Cal Ripken, Jr. and Bill Ripken. Established in 2001, the mission of Ripken Baseball is to grow the game of baseball worldwide 'The Ripken Way.'

--- www.RipkenBaseball.com ---

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